

The Observer

opinion news features sports stuff

News Briefs

Volleyball Tourney

The team of Brian McGovern, Chad Novak, Jeff Weir, Tammy Witek, and Traci Wall took first place in the Benner Volleyball tournament.

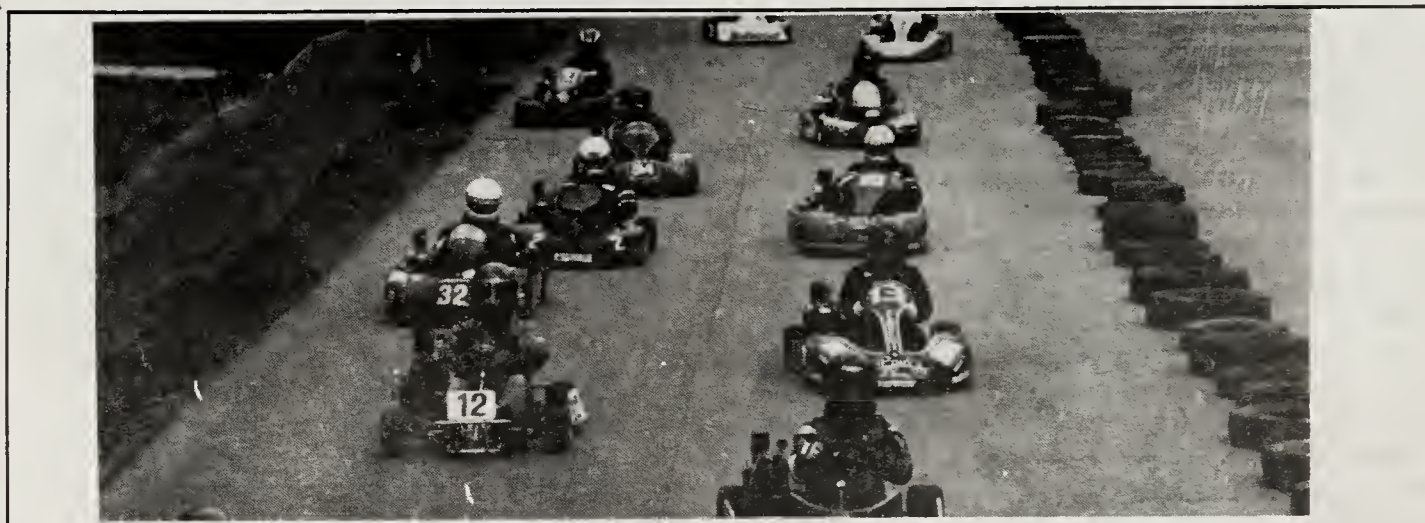
Band Concert

The Saint Joseph's Band Concert will be held on Sunday, May 3 in the Halleck Center Ballroom at 2:00 pm.

Term 973

Enrollment for Term 973 will be on May 18 and classes will begin May 19.

Little 500 and Graduation Special Double Edition



In This Issue

NCAA Investigation on
SJC Men's Basketball
Program

.....see page 3

Photo Collection for the
Class of 1998

.....see page 4

Farewell Message from
the Editor-in-Chief

.....see page 2

Little 500 Reflections

.....see page 8

He Said, She Said: Gradu-
ation Reflections

.....see page 9

Little 500 Driver Profiles

.....see page 6-7

Poetry in High Gear

.....see page 12

Graduation Weekend Schedule

Thursday, May 7

Diploma Signing Party: 6:00-8:00pm at President Shannon's Home

Core XI Senior Party: 9:00pm-12:00am in the Core XI Club Room

Friday, May 8

Graduation Portraits: 10:00am-3:00pm in Halleck North Lounge

Senior Brunch: 10:00am-12:00pm in Halleck Ballroom

Senior Softball Tournament: 2:00-4:00pm IM Field

Senior Dance: 9:00pm-1:00am in Halleck Ballroom

Saturday, May 9

Lake Banet Picnic: 11:30am-1:00pm at Lake Banet Park

Baccalaureate Mass: 5:00pm in the Fieldhouse

President's Reception/Dance: 9:00pm-1:00am in Halleck Ballroom

Senior Slide Show: 10:00pm in Halleck Ballroom

Sunday, May 10

Community Buffet Brunch: 10:00am-12:00pm in Halleck Cafeteria

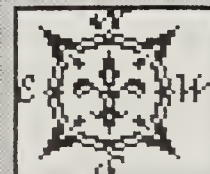
Commencement Ceremony: 1:00pm in the Fieldhouse

Graduates' Reception: immediately following Commencement
in the CEC Foyer

A Meditation for Graduation

May He support us all
the day long, till the
shades lengthen and
the evening comes and
the busy world is
hushed and the fever of
life is over and our
work is done then in
His mercy may he give
us a safe lodging and a
holy rest and peace at
the last.

Cardinal Newman



BON VOYAGE



by DeAnn Hazzard

It's time to say good-bye. This is my last official opinion peice of my college career...and, the huge weight that has been lifted from my shoulders (deadlines, layouts, missing stories, brainstorming) has been replaced with an even heavier weight...but it isn't pressing on my shoulders, it's pulling on my heart. And I know that some freshmen are wishing they were done with this academic nightmare, whereas some others are thanking their stars that they have three more years left...and of course there are the seniors that are counting down the minutes until they say 'bon voyage' and, there are those on my side wishing those words didn't have to come.

It isn't that I am afraid of the real world, well, at least not absolutely terrified where I want to go running into my room, lock the door, and never come out, it's just that it really is hard to say good-bye. Don't gag...don't go run for the hills because I am sentimental and don't scream that you're sick of hearing about this nostalgic weepy

let's be thankful for the time we've had here and hug everyone. Well, all I have to say is, there's hardly any hills worth mentioning in Indiana...gagging is really uncomfortable...and screaming will just get you written up for the 30th time, at least that's the way things have been going this year.

So, I guess what I am asking is, just listen, at least for a little while. Because these four years have gone by in a blink, and there isn't anything that I wouldn't do or say to have more time. Now, it's not that I want my life to be forever at SJC or another Core paper is my top choice on my Christmas wish list or that cafeteria food is the only thing I want to eat for the rest of my life, it's just that I want more time with the people that have made SJC such a special experience--I give you permission to gag. (but only slightly, because deep down I know you feel the same way or will someday)--my friends.

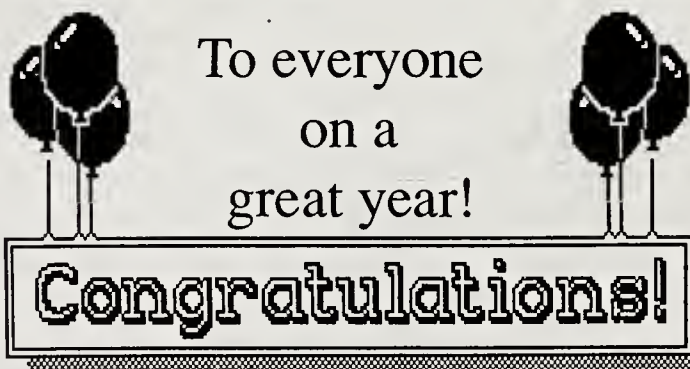
Now, of course to appease my parents and prevent the onslaught of a panic attack, I must profess that my educa-

tion has been of great importance and value to me. I have loved every minute of every all-nighter where I panicked through a paper because procrastination had become my new best friend the moment I entered college. And, despite my sarcasm, I have learned more than I ever thought possible...now, remembering it, that's a different story...for a different issue that I will never write...that seems too weird.

But it's time. It's time to say good-bye...it's time to let go and to hold on. It's time to take what you've learned, what you should have learned, what you remember, and what you forgot into the new real world just steps beyond the fieldhouse on May 10.

I'll take with me unforgettable memories of laughter, of being stupid, of being young, of being ready to conquer the world, of being crushed by the world, of understanding how exciting away from home could be, of realizing how much home actually means, of late night talks, of finding some of the best friends in the world, of finding love, of studying hard, of procrastinating, and of finally realizing it was all up to me.

So, I say good-bye and good luck to everyone. May we find through the tears and hugs the strength to say good-bye and especially the strength to stay close. Just because you have to let go, doesn't mean you can't hold on forever.



CHEERS & JEERS

- *Cheers to the volleyball tournament
- *Cheers to St. Jude/ concert fundraiser
- *Cheers to fundraiser for Vincenzia's operation
- *Cheers to sleeping in on the weekends
- *Cheers to Little 500
- *Cheers to Graduation
- *Cheers to being done with Core 10 20 page papers
- *Cheers to being almost done with Core 10 presentations
- *Cheers to people meeting deadlines
- *Cheers to great memories
- *Cheers to great friends
- *Cheers to chocolate
- *Cheers to next year's Observer staff

- *Jeers for being written up on Senior Dinner night
- *Jeers to last stress-filled weeks of the year
- *Jeers to finding a job
- *Jeers to rejection letters
- *Jeers to saying good-bye
- *Jeers to computers sucking your contacts dry
- *Jeers to confusing weather
- *Jeers to people not meeting deadlines
- *Jeers to stale bread
- *Jeers to another cold Little 500 week
- *Jeers to all-nighters!!!

Editor-in-Chief
DeAnn Hazzard

Opinion Editor
DeAnn Hazzard

News Editor
Peggy McLeish

Features Editor
Rachel Barlage

Sports Editor
Jamie Riberto

Stuff Editor
Robert Dusek

Copy Editor
Ashley Pierce

Advertising Manager
Natalie Berenda

Reporters
Bill Bell
Erin Breetzke
Kevin Collins
Julia Garcia
Bradley Gellert
Tami Hart
Marcy Janjecic
Becky Johnson
Heidi Jugovic
Sarah Klusek
Charles Martin
Sarah Martin
Zack Milito
Ashley Pierce

Photography Manager
Jennifer Palecek

Photographers
Cynthia Stanko
Jennifer Palecek

Faculty Facilitator
Dr. Charles Kerlin

Macintosh Advisor
Dr. Robert Schenk

Publisher
Dr. Albert Shannon

Letters to the Editor:
Letters must be between 350-500 words. They must be signed and include a telephone number. If the author of the letter does not want his/her name used, include a pseudonym to be printed. The Editorial Board can elect not to print a letter that conflicts with or violates the newspaper Editorial Policy or College Doctrine. Editors reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be e-mailed to DeAnn Hazzard or dropped off in our mailbox in the Core Building.

Saint Joe's College Applying for Lilly Foundation Grants

by Ashely Pierce

Saint Joseph's College is presently in the process of applying for Lilly Foundation Grants. Lilly grants, according to the Student Association President Mike Nichols, are to be used to bring students to the school, keep them at that school, and encourage them to find jobs in Indiana. Money granted to the school can be used for academic programs and the construction of academic or co-curricular facilities. However, no money can be requested or used for athletic facilities.

"If we should be fortunate enough to receive a grant, students will benefit from almost any proposal," stated Nichols. "There are so many places on this campus that could simply absorb five million dollars. The major contenders are residence halls, the library, and admissions. I believe students stand to benefit from

"There are so many places on this campus that could simply absorb five million dollars."

--S.A. President,
Mike Nichols

any of these."

Saint Joseph's can apply for one of three amounts for grants ranging from five hundred thousand dollars to five million dollars. The administrative staff is presently choosing which area and amount to pursue.

The deadline for proposals is July 31, 1998. The Lilly Foundation will let the college know if their proposal has been accepted by December 31, 1998, and, if accepted, Saint Joseph's will begin receiving money in the beginning of 1999.

Ruling Not Yet In On Allegations of NCAA Violations by Men's Basketball Head Coach

by Peg McLeish

Now that the basketball season is over, allegations surrounding the Saint Joseph's basketball program have begun to settle. However, it isn't over according to the NCAA which has yet to make its official ruling on the alleged rule violations by head coach Bill Bland.

The story first broke in the beginning of the 1997-1998 school year that there had been violations of the NCAA rules pertaining to college basketball programs. Coach Bland was suspended for five games in September by the college after a review was conducted by a commission set up by the institution. The commission included the institution's NCAA representative, the faculty athletic representative, and a member of the athletic staff. The review uncovered several violations of NCAA rules and the commission's report filed to the administration recommended sanctions and for the institution to self report to the NCAA. All recommendations of the commission were imposed by the administration of the college. Coach Bland commented that he felt

it was necessary for the institution to self discipline and self report and that he "backed them one hundred percent in their decision." The NCAA has since investigated the alleged violations but an official ruling has yet to be announced. The college is awaiting that ruling before committing to further action.

The violations uncovered by the St. Joseph's College commission and the further allegations that have been made include several core elements of the basketball program. One violation was the number of games that several athletes played in were beyond maximum allowed by NCAA standards because the players were put in both varsity and junior varsity games during the 1996-1997 season. The sanction imposed by the college for this violation was that the athletes were reduced in the number of games that they could play in during the 1997-1998 season.

Another allegation that has been brought by previous members of the St. Joseph's basketball program concerned when the players practiced on the court. According to an NCAA rule that went into ef-

fect in August of 1997, players were allowed to practice on the basketball court prior to the official practice season, but this action had to be completely voluntary. Coach Bland is accused of violating this rule by recommending that players practice on the court prior to the official season. There was no sanction imposed by the college for this alleged violation, as it was found to be unsubstantiated by the commission.

More substantial allegations made by former members of the basketball program include inappropriate recruitment practices and scholarship

The violations uncovered... and the further allegations that have been made include several core elements of the basketball program.

contracts and funds being placed into a player's school account. A scholarship contract that was given to Chris Young, a former member of the men's team, was what began the investigation of the program and Coach Bland. According to Young, the con-

tract that he was given promised a scholarship until his graduation. However, according to NCAA rules, a scholarship can only be promised to an athlete for the period of one year and is at that time renewable. According to other former team members, the scholarships that were described to them by individuals in the St. Joseph's basketball program were for a solid four years, not one year. This has left several athletes without the necessary funds to finish their schooling when the scholarships that they believed were for four years were arbitrarily pulled.

The most consequential allegation that has yet to be ruled on by the NCAA is that concerning funds being put into the school account of a member of the men's basketball team. According to the athlete, Coach Bland deposited a large sum of money into his account. The motivation behind the alleged action is believed to be one of aid so that the athlete could remain at St. Joseph's, as he was without sufficient funds at the time necessary for registration. Coach Bland had no comment on the allegations.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION CLOSES YEAR WITH ASPIRATIONS

by Mike Nichols

Over the past semester the Student Senate and Student Government have discussed and overseen many issues and activities. The senate completed a revision of its mission statement, which has been placed in the Student Association constitution and held forums on possible changes to the alcohol discipline procedures and dorm fines appeal procedures.

Concerning the alcohol discipline procedures, fines for alcohol will not go up in

any way. The only changes were the reduction from five levels to four and the institution of community service hours at the first and second level.

Concerning the dorm fines procedures, governors and senators have been empowered with the ability to oversee their respective dorms appeals. Also, appeals will go to a three-person review board if disagreement with the office of Campus Life continue. On the issue of security, student government sponsored the ar-

ticipation of General Security Procedures, which are now placed on the bulletin boards of each dorm.

The Student Association officers suggested and the Senate adopted the concept of a Committee of Campus Clubs (C.C.C.). The purpose of the committee is to generate more club-sponsored activities on campus. The Senate and the Student Association officers plan to make the committee more prominent in the fall semester.

The Student Association

officers have held dorm meetings in Gallagher, Bennett, and Justin in order to hear the questions and concerns of the members of those dorms. The officers intend to visit the other dorms in the fall semester.

Recently the impending effort by the college to obtain a new grant from the Lilly Foundation has been the topic of Senate and Student Government discussion. Student Association plans to be integral in the Administration's deliberation on this issue.

Dwenger Fallen to Uninhabitable State

by Julia Garcia

Over Spring Break, a window was left open in Dwenger, which led to a pipe freezing and its subsequent rupture. The incident caused serious damage to the ceilings of several rooms. Dwenger, which holds many offices of the various student clubs and organizations on campus, is now uninhabitable, and the College has no plans of restoring the building to a functional state in the near future.

"The building has no (functional) restroom facilities and really should not have been used anyway," stated Dr. William Shaut, Vice-President of Business Affairs. As part of his duties, Shaut is in charge of balancing the school budget. In order to bring Dwenger back to a

functional state, major plumbing and electrical work will have to be done along with structural rehabilitation. "The building has to be kept to some degree functional be-

.....

"...the College has limited financial resources and I would guess decisions were made to spend them elsewhere."

-- Vice President for Business Affairs, William Shaut

.....

cause computer line runs through it", added Shaut. As of now, the bulk of the repairs will not be made due to limited funds.

Although there has been

little criticism over the College's decision, some feel that the accumulated damage could have been prevented. "What happened could probably have been halted many years ago, but the College has limited financial resources and I would guess decisions were made to spend them elsewhere, state Shaut. He further commented, "Some buildings are built much better than others, and you would certainly choose to put your dollars there over the long term."

The student organizations and club offices that were once located in Dwenger are in the process of moving to other office space around campus. *The Observer* offices will be moving to the third floor of Halleck Center.

Photos from the Archives



Core XI bartender Bill "Flounder" O'Donovan has served up several brews to the Class of 1998.



The retirement of Joyce was a momentous event for the Class of 1998 and the SJC community at large.

Rachel Barlage and Amanda McIlwain Hauser Share Valedictorian Honors

by Becky Johnson and Peg McLeish

Both Rachel Barlage and Amanda McIlwain Hauser are honored and excited to be the Valedictorians for this year's graduating class.

"The feeling of being Valedictorian is gratifying seeing that I've worked extremely hard for four years. This accomplishment didn't come to me very easily. It's nice to be recognized after these four years," stated Barlage. Barlage is receiving her degree in English - Creative Writing with a minor in Spanish.

Hauser completed her degree in Elementary Education in just two and one half years. Graduating with a 4.0 gpa and becoming Valedictorian was a goal of hers from the beginning of her career. Hauser stated that she is "very honored to be co-Valedictorian with Rachel."

Barlage will be going to

Emerson College in Boston next fall to pursue a Masters degree in writing and publishing. Hauser is now looking for a teaching position in an elementary or middle school in a local school corporation. She is currently working at Van Rensselaer Elementary in Rensselaer.

Barlage commented, "Saint Joseph's has helped me to find my place in the world. The college has taught me who I am. It is going to be scary leaving. My time at Saint Joseph's has provided me with a good education. The college itself, in my opinion, has a family atmosphere."

She also extended the advice to underclassmen to take advantage of every day here. She commented, "I would encourage students to recognize everything that they have here. Time went by so fast for me."

Barlage was very active in

her four years at St. Joseph's. Among other activities, she was the coordinator of the Student Volunteer Corps and the Features Editor of *The Observer* this academic year. She encourages underclassmen to also become involved while at Saint Joseph's in some of the many activities available.

According to Hauser, the Christian environment and background of Saint Joseph's has been beneficial. She was especially happy with the motto of the Education Department "Teaching in a Christian Way" and how that has influenced her teaching goals. Being at Saint Joseph's also meant a lot to Hauser because of the special attention that she was given and the way many professors went out of their way to do a lot for her. "I really appreciated that I was given so much individual attention," commented Hauser.



The Mule furnished rides for security, students, and several kegs in the fall of 1996.



The Annual Rake and Run organized Student Volunteer Corps gave students a nice break in the fall.



The New Kids on the Block took first place in the 1997 Lip Sync Contest.

In the beginning...

THE HISTORY OF LITTLE 500

*Taken from 1996
Little 500 program*

The sporting event that you will witness this weekend is the culmination of thirty-three years of planning, hard work, innovation, and most of all, good-natured, all out fun! The Student Council Vice-President, Mitch Kaminski '63, first had the brain storm. He felt that students needed a weekend of relaxation and procrastination before the onset of finals and graduation. Many agreed with him. Consequently, the Little 500 was initiated by the Saint Joseph's College Student Association.

For a time a 500-mile race was considered. Quickly those involved in the planning opted instead for 500 minutes. That was still more than eight hours! The race was to consist of "karts:" home-made wooden chariots powered solely by people. The course would wind around the Science Building, and was sarcastically dubbed, "The Appian Way."

In the first race, individual dorms built the rudimentary karts and ten energetic (or in other words, crazy and masochistic students pushed). These students alternated in

teams of three, one always riding in or on the kart in order to steer. Courting cardiac arrest, these students pushed the karts as fast as they could for the full 500 minutes. The first kart to cross the finish line with the highest number of laps in the allotted time received the sum of \$50; second place finishers collected \$30; third place qualifiers were awarded \$20.

The Little 500 was an enormous success from day one. By 1965, it had expanded into a weekend of events that centered around the race. Moreover, the race had undergone revision. Thankfully for many, the race was shortened to a mere four hour ordeal. In addition, time trials were instituted in the growing Little 500 tradition. Lastly, the precedent for women's involvement was set with the first all-female kart entry.

In 1969, the course was modified. Karts were re-routed to circle the Halleck Center. Trophies and jackets supplemented the monetary prizes for the first time. And a panel of impartial judges was established in order to ensure that the race was pro-

fessional and fair in nature.

In 1970, the Little 500 made the historical step of motorization. Local businesses helped with this transition by providing funding, fuel, and often mechanical work. The speed and the danger caused by the motorized karts paralleled the previous body sacrificing of the torturous foot race. 1972's winner logged a record of 179 laps and was clocked at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour.

The old quarter-mile route around Halleck gave way in 1973 to a seven-tenths of a mile course which ran south from Gallagher to Justin, east behind the Grotto, north past the Water Tower in a long straightaway, and finally west in front of the Science Building.

The track was fenced in for the first time, and official passes were distributed to those involved in the race; only those with passes were permitted inside of the fenced in area. As a further safety precaution, as well as to ensure fairness, the race committee initiated mandatory pre- and post-race engine inspection. And as a final measure, an ambulance was made

available as well.

As the years passed, higher technology in the sport of go-kart racing began to appear. In 1980, the race saw an overhead cam Honda literally blow the rest of the 4 horsepower field away. With this appearance of the advanced engine power, the rules were once again revised. The committee decided to provide standardized engines to the drivers in order to ensure that the race would be more competitive. Moreover, the competition would be about driving ability, not about who had the most money.

By 1983, aerodynamics had become an important aspect of the race. Nose cones, side pods, and enduro karts were employed. And again the rules were reevaluated to accommodate these changes. In the following years, weight minimums, height maximums, and length requirements were set.

Circa 1987, two pedestrian bridges were added to allow spectators to cross the track safely. The 25th Anniversary Race saw times shortened yet again; the race time was cut down to a mere two

hours. Chicane ("S" curves) were a part of the race by 1987 as well.

Today, instead of trophies or jackets, plaques are awarded. The monetary prizes are a whopping \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, and \$150 for third place. Strict rules regulate kart, race suit, and helmet specifications, even the pit crew attire! The weekend celebration has expanded to include five days, and events such as: the Mr. Puma contest, the crowning of the Little 500 Queen, various bands, booths, carnival events, a beer and brat tent, and a Little 500 parade.

Many people are involved in some aspect of planning, coordinating, or participating in this event. Most of the burden falls, however, on the Little 500 Chairperson, who takes on the semester long, complicated and full-time job in addition to his or her busy college schedule.

Thanks to the Little 500 Chairperson and the efforts of all the hard working students, administrators, and employees, the Annual Little 500 is a community effort. It is an event that is uniquely Saint Joseph's College.



Student Drivers

Carrie Edgell No. 9

Stunt Dawg Racing
Hometown: Rock Hill, SC
Year: Junior
Previous Finishes: 6th in 1997

Bradley Gellert No. 03

Sunshine Racing
Hometown: Dyer, IN
Year: Senior
Previous Finishes: 3rd in 1997

Andrew Hicks No. 42

Rose Blossom Racing
Hometown: Fair Oaks, IN
Year: Senior
Previous Finishes: Rookie

Bill Knox No. 17

Friendly Ghost Racing
Hometown: Ventura, CA
Year: Freshman
Previous Finishes: Rookie

Charles Martin No. 6

Team Valvoline
Hometown: Walkertown, IN
Year: Freshman
Previous Finishes: Rookie

for the
1998

**Little
 500**

**Craig Phipps No. 99**

Webbed Feet Racing
Hometown: Bainbridge, IN
Year: Sophomore
Previous Finishes: Rookie

Shawn Roser No. 41

Rose Blossom Racing
Hometown: Brownville, TX
Year: Sophomore
Previous Finishes: Rookie

Blair VanVelse No. 21

Friendly Ghost Racing
Hometown: Indianapolis, IN
Year: Junior
Previous Finishes: Rookie

Joe Vorrier No. 18

Puma Warrior Racing Team
Hometown: Palos Hills, IL
Year: Senior
Previous Finishes: 7th-'96, 9th-'97

Mary Zurek No. 07

Stunt Dawg Racing
Hometown: Libertyville, IL
Year: Senior
Previous Finishes: Rookie

Alumni Drivers for the 1998 Little 500

Matthew Davy No. 53

*Friendly Ghost Racing
Hometown: Ypsilanti, MI
SJC Graduation Year: 1996
Past Finishes: 1st, 4th, 1st, 6th*

James Lane No. 26

*Friendly Ghost Racing
Hometown: Chicago, IL
SJC Graduation Year: 1996
Past Finishes: Rookie*



Bill Hardy No. 79

*Hometown: Frankfort, IL
SJC Graduation Year: 1979
Past Finishes: 3rd, 3rd, 9th*

Jon Messman No. 3

*Hometown: Rensselaer, IN
SJC Graduation Year: 1990
Past Finishes: 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 1st*

Tom Flynn No. 79

*Hometown: Plymouth, IN
SJC Graduation Year: 1979
Past Finishes: 3rd, 3rd, 9th*

Thomas Messman

No. 2

*Hometown: Rensselaer, IN
SJC Graduation Year: 1990
Past Finishes: Not available*

Steve Koos No. 95

*Friendly Ghost Racing
Hometown: Countryside, IL
SJC Graduation Year: 1995
Past Finishes: 5th, 2nd, 1st, 7th*

Sean Shannon No. 9

*DeYoung Racing Specialities
Hometown: Oak Forest, IL
SJC Graduation Year: 1997
Past Finishes: 5th*

Good Luck to all Drivers!!!

LITTLE 500 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

by Tami Hart

It has come time for the annual Little 500 race at SJC. The schedule of events have been posted for the Little 500 week long event.

From April 20-23 the track for Little 500 will be set up. On Friday the practice will be going on for the students and alumni. The practice sessions will go on in 10 minute intervals alternating between the students and the alumni.

This practice will last from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The practice can be viewed by anyone who would like to come out and watch the practice races.

On Saturday, the Alumni Pre-tech will be happening from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. The final practice for the alumni and students will conclude around 10:00 a.m. The alumni race parade lap begins around 10:40 a.m. on Saturday the 25th.

The 1998 Little 500 Alumni race will start at 10:45 a.m. With the conclusion of the Alumni race and a lunch break, the Student race starts at 1:00 and lasts until 4:00 p.m.

Other than racing, there will be a novelty package on the IM field from 11:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. At 4:00, there will be a reggae band called Gizgae in the IM field.

The Little 500 awards banquet will be taking place in the ballroom from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. to conclude Little 500 week. So take the time to go out and experience the events associated with Little 500.

One Driver's Reflections of Little 500 1997

by Bradley Gellert

The grand marshal has just entered the pits, and all flags are green for take-off. The continual intense buzz of the engines soon becomes music to my ears. The heat generated from the black engine penetrates both my pads and my suit as my arm lightly brushes against it. Let's hope my flesh is not feeling the same in a couple of hours.

The first lap is over almost as quickly as it began. Already I have jumped ahead two places. However, I can't focus on first place quite yet. Little 5 is a two hour and forty-five minute race, which requires intense concentration. I focus my thoughts on one turn at a time, rather than the end result.

The wheel has become an extension of myself and my mind. (However, my fingers lock around the wheel with an uncanny grip just in case one of the three fall out of

sync). I float by turn one and two, and the thought of Ed Balas creeps into my mind.

Just two hours before, Ed flipped his cart end over end. And talk about spirit! Ed immediately jumped back into his cart and continued racing! I'm sure he felt that one in the morning.

Traveling at 50 mph in a go-kart is a little more dangerous than some realize. Matt Davy broke a couple of ribs two years ago during a practice run. That same year, little Lisa Dillon almost decapitated herself under the judges table! Oh well. Nobody said winning (or finishing for that matter) would be easy.

Late in the race, I feel a bump from behind. My cart easily regains composure and I continue toward my race against the clock. Afterwards, I learned that the nudge did not treat Sammy, who at that time was the race leader, as well.

As the result of almost caressing a few trees, Sammy dropped from first to fourth. They say "bumpin' is racin'." However, I am sure there must be fine print somewhere, which reads: "avoid it if at all possible."

At the end of the race, I finished third. Not bad for a rookie who had known absolutely nothing about racing or mechanics beforehand. I attribute last year's accomplishment to my pit crew and my sponsors. All I had to do was show up and drive.

Therefore, I advise anyone who has ever thought of becoming involved to quit thinking about it and just do it! All a driver needs is between \$275 and \$400 of sponsorship money, depending on how much equipment is needed, and a desire to race. It does not matter what knowledge a person has about racing. (Believe me, I knew nothing!)

There will be others to help iron out with the details of engine work, driving tips and every other aspect of the race. In another perspective, when will you ever have the opportunity to drive a 50mph go-kart for 2 hours and 45 minutes for free?

Wright's Barnyard, Munster Junction and Smitty's all charge about 3 bucks for 5 minutes! (Those from the "region" know what I'm talking about.)

The greatest attribute of Little 5 is that whether one is behind the wheel or behind a beer glass, watching from the pit or from the beer and brat tent, a student, alumni, Rensselaerian or other, hundreds of people gather to enjoy the greatest weekend at Saint Joseph's College each year.

At SJC's Little 500, a good time is to be had by all. Ladies and gentlemen, **START YOUR ENGINES!**

Little 500 TOP TEN

10. Being covered with hay while watching from the couches in front of Gallagher
9. Making money betting on the underdogs
8. Visiting the drivers in the barn
7. Watching the gradual transformation of the campus to a real, live race track
6. It's the only race that you don't care who wins
5. Making alumni buy you beer
4. Drinking with professors
3. Beer and Brat Tent
2. Crashes! (Sorry, drivers)
1. Seeing alumni and friends



Profile of a Racer: Joe Vorrier

by Rachel Barlage and Tami Hart

Senior Joe Vorrier is ready to start his engine for the third year in a row. Vorrier became involved with Little 500 his freshman year. He worked as a track marshal at turn 4 and saw several drivers crash. "Basically," he admits, "I knew that I could drive better than them."

The first year Vorrier raced, he had an unfortunate accident involving a pedestrian. Vorrier was cut off in the straightaway in front of the pits, and he locked up his brakes, sending his car flying through the fence and hitting an alumnus who was standing near the beer and brat tent.

"I remember hitting the brakes. I remember going

through the fence. All I remember after that is helping a woman get up," Vorrier said with a smile.

Last year, Vorrier did not place well, but he broke the record for the fastest lap ever in the student race--36 seconds. "I didn't expect it," he commented. "It was just a matter of making up laps" after being hit by another driver.

Vorrier has high hopes for this year's race. "I hope to get a good position right in the start, avoid the accidents, and try to break another lap record."

Vorrier and his pit crew make up the Puma Warrior Racing Team. Joe said that the one of the best things about racing is "how the Puma Warrior Racing team comes together for a successful race."

Graduation Reflections

She Said:

by Julia Garcia

It's funny how when you graduated from high school, you were certain that you would never be as close to a group of friends as you were to your high school buddies.

Just a couple of weeks away from graduation, and once again I am dreading the departure from the group of friends who have filled my life with laughter, tears, excitement, and inspiration for the past four years.

But this time it's different. This time I'm not quite as worried about never seeing these people again, but much more concerned about their happiness in the future and enthusiastic about the fulfillment of the goals that they so adamantly set out to accomplish in August of 1994.

I've seen my friends ma-

ture, and their growth is, in part, a reflection of my own development. Their triumphs have become mine own also.

You know the old saying about how college is supposed to be the best years of your life...well, it has been for me, and as graduation peaks its head around the corner, I remember what has made these years so unforgettable.

Could it have been the midnight runs to Grandma's or sitting around the cafe, discussing just about anything? Or was it the late night talks with my roommate that filled the following day with much fatigue but no regrets? Perhaps it was my Core classes, which made me realize that life is not about what you take, but a lot about what you give.

About this time four

years ago, I was wondering where I would spend "the best four years" of my life. Upon visiting, Saint Joe immediately captivated me. I don't know if it was the beauty of the campus or the warm "hello" of the stranger who walked past me, but something definitely took hold of me and hasn't let go since. But now it's time to move on—four more years of school left for me, but a lifetime of learning left for us all.

If the next four years of my life turn out to be half as exciting and fulfilling as these, then I'm looking at a great future ahead of me. I think it's obvious to those who know me well that my time here has been a lifetime of laughter compacted into four years. I figure if I never smile again, I'll still be ahead of the game...I've still had my fair share.

most of all, I'll remember the incredible friends that I made over my four years here.

I don't think I've ever met a finer bunch of people than those that I call my friends here at SJC. I know I said this when I graduated from high school, but living with someone on campus at Saint Joe's can create bonds that will never be broken.

The mixed-up, hodgepodge collection of cronies that I associate with couldn't have been any better as far as I'm concerned. I'm not just talking about my roommates either. Everyone here at Saint Joe's will undoubtedly be in my heart and soul until the day I die.

Everyone from Uncle Doug and Two-Beer Weir to that quiet girl in the cafeteria has been imprinted on my brain as a huge part of my experience here.

When it's all said and done, I guess I just want to say thanks to everyone for

making the last four years the best times of my life. Through all of those tasty Shepherd's Pie nights at the cafe we've braved these four years together, learning about life the whole way.

And even though not all of you seniors may agree with me about these being "the best years of our lives" right now, I have a feeling that somewhere down the line you will. So until then, thanks everybody for (at the very least) a memorable four-year experience.

Birthright Rummage Sale

This Weekend!

Friday 9:00-6:00
Saturday 9:00-12:00
at Saint Augustine's
Catholic Church



photo by Cindy Stanko

View from the Looney Bin

Becoming a Puma

by Heidi Jugovic

Most of you have heard Skip's (in)famous Puma speech at least once already...even if you're a freshman. If you missed it the first time around, don't worry. You'll get plenty of chances.

It usually begins with some version of "It Takes Four Years to Make a Puma..." and spins out from there. At the risk of stigmatizing myself for life (too late), I'll make a confession. I'm a little moved when I hear it...even now, after 4 years.

At the heart of that classic speech is a message about change, about opening yourself to change while you're at SJC, about making growth and not simply a degree a goal of your four years of college education.

If you're an underclassman, ask a senior sometime in the next week how they think that they have changed since their freshman year.

If they say they haven't changed, smile politely and back away. They've been wasting the last four years of their life, and if you give them the chance, they'll waste the next fifteen minutes of yours.

I've heard the argument, "If I was happy with myself when I came here, why should I change? Just for the sake of change?"

I don't buy that line, and neither should you. If you are perfectly happy with yourself at the age of 18, find a quiet spot in the shade, role over, and die. You're finished with life anyway. Stop changing = stop growing. Stop growing = stop

living. You've heard the old sayings. Apply them to yourself and go bother someone else with your denial.

Anyway, the person you were happy being when you were 18 should not be the same person you are happy being when you are 22. We grow up. Our roles in life change. We should change with them.

But the kind of change you go through at SJC is not merely about growing up. It is about growing in and growing out and growing with direction.

The most important changes that happen at SJC are not dramatic changes in your character or choice of lifestyle or maybe even faith. The most important change is becoming aware of who you are, why you are that person, and who you want to be in the future on a level which most people never touch in all of their lives. In a strange way, we change to become more like ourselves than we were before.

A professor once told me that the purpose of a four-year liberal arts degree is not in attaining knowledge or skill. It is about learning to become a person.

Only at SJC, we become more than ordinary persons. We become Pumas. What is a Puma? It is not something you describe; it is who you become. What is Core? It is not something you explain; it is something you experience.

Change happens in a different way at SJC than at other colleges. It is better, in my admittedly biased opinion. I hope that you can be thankful for it.

Thank all those wonderful professors who give too much of themselves, who work far too hard, and who are underpaid and underappreciated for it in return. Thank all the significant people in the history of this college who designed the mission and special character of SJC. And maybe, thank yourself a little for making a good choice and taking advantage of it.

Hey, while you're at it, thank Skip for the speech...and maybe include a subtle reminder about the goodness of change!

Horgeshimer: On Puma Baseball

by Erin Breetzke

With the 1998 baseball season well on its way, the Puma baseball team has been pumping up and preparing for the journey ahead of them.

Currently the team is 25-11 overall and 13-6 in the conference and they have been working well together to achieve a successful season.

"The team has done a tremendous job pulling together, and the chemistry is great," first year hitting coach, and member of Saint Joseph's College 1996 Division II National Championship Runner Up Team, Dominic Horgeshimer stated.

Because practice ultimately improves overall performance, the men have been hard at work trying to perfect

their techniques.

"The team has done really well so far," Horgeshimer stated. "We've done a little better than expected in some areas [but] we have a young team and it's the experience factor we need to work on. Our master plan is to get better every day," he added.

Being a young team, and having to perform at the high level the Saint Joseph's College baseball program demands, the freshmen have been doing a wonderful job.

"The freshmen should be commended as being a very talented group," Horgeshimer explained. "A couple have stepped up to varsity roles," he added.

Though they are a young

team, they have the drive to succeed, and the ability to develop their talents into a successful season.

"We've been a little inconsistent [but] we all believe in each other and we should definitely be in the conference and NCAA tournament," Horgeshimer commented.

"Our hopes as coaches, is that with our personnel being so young, we can make the tournament. We're where we'd like to be, we're competitive, [and] these guys have been resilient," he continued.

With a strong offense, the team's combination of power and speed has been consistent, leading to nine or ten runs a game. But one thing which still stands in the team's way is that in intense

situations, they beat themselves more than the other team. With this aside, the team's performance overall is something which stands out and should be applauded.

"This team has stayed together and I'm proud of their chemistry and togetherness," Horgeshimer explained. "A lot of these players didn't get a lot of attention in junior varsity, but these guys should be commended. They do a good job assuming leadership roles," he ended.

Overall, the team is strong, resilient, and harbors much talent. If all the world's a stage, it's their curtain call.

"This group has something to prove, and it's their time," Horgeshimer concluded.

On the Green

by Marcy Janjecic

Fore! Golf season is once again here and both the men's and women's golf teams have been busy hitting the links. Over the Easter weekend, the women played in Owensboro, Kentucky at Wesleyan College's Invitational where the Pumas placed sixth with a score of 789. The women will complete their season this coming Sunday and Monday at the Lewis University Invitational.

The women have had a successful, positive, and unified season. Graduating senior, Jill Peterson, has enjoyed playing in her last season at SJC.

"Golf this spring was a nice way to finish my senior year at Saint Joe. I was impressed with how the team played together, despite some courses which looked like the fairways were snow covered. It was fun making new friends on the team and being uplifted by positive attitudes," remarked Jill.

Jill has provided an inspiring positive attitude towards golf and the team. She will be missed by the team next year.

The men's golf team played at Manchester College's Invitational held at Honeywell Country Club on April 3-4. The men finished in the middle of the field. Due to cold and windy weather conditions, scores were high for all teams present at the tournament. The men completed their season last weekend at Deer Track Country Club in Auburn, IN. Their last golf match was a district tournament.

Coach Mangas is looking forward to next fall and believes that both teams will continue to improve.

"The men and women should have a strong showing in their last tournaments," remarked Coach Mangas.

Softball Falls Short of the Conference Tournament

by Sarah Klusek

The Saint Joseph's College softball team's season made a turn for the worse when the team found out that they did not make the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. This was one of the goals the team had as well as an individual goal for most of the Pumas.

Junior Katie Corrigan was very disappointed that the team did not make the tournament.

"It was very disappointing that we didn't make the tournament. We had the potential and worked very hard and hopefully next year we will make the Conference Tournament" Corrigan stated.

The Puma's losses started when they played the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. They lost the first game 12-2, and in the nightcap lost 5-0. These losses moved the team down in the Conference.

Corrigan felt the team did not play well either game.

"I feel that we did not play



photo by Jen Palecek

Puma Softball competes hard.

up to our potential in these two games. I feel that we could have played much better than we did against them. We seem to be intimidated when we play them, we can actually beat them if we try and don't let the little things get us down" Corrigan remarked.

The team's last conference cluster was held at Lewis University. The team did not fare that well that weekend. It was an important weekend for the Pumas that could have determined whether or not the team would be going to the Great

Lakes Valley tournament. The girls lost 4 of their 6 games and their only 2 victories came against the Hawks of Quincy University 6-5 and 6-3.

The top eight teams are invited to the GLVC tournament each year. The losses the Pumas suffered put them at 7-19 in the conference and 11-29 overall. Corrigan thought the team played really well really well.

"The team overall played well, but we did not get the key hits we needed at the right times. We should have at least been .500 that weekend. Ev-

ery loss takes away the chance we have for making the conference tournament, and makes us work even harder," Corrigan said.

The Pumas do have something to smile about though. Sophomore utility player Stacey DeHaven was named to the 1998 All Great Lakes Valley Conference Softball Second Team. DeHaven batted .403, had 10 runs batted in, 10 runs scored, and 29 hits with 6 doubles in the 26 Conference games this season. She was also 2-4 as a pitcher with 8 strike-outs and had an earned run average of 4.35.

The Pumas season is still not over. The team will be traveling to Romeoville this weekend to participate in the GLVC versus the GIAC tournament. This tournament enables teams from these two conferences to play against each other and gain more experience playing other teams they usually would not play. The Pumas are looking forward to a successful season next year.

Sharon Rhyne Steps up to Success

by Erin Breetzke

To a few people she is a daughter and sister, but to many she is a friend, teammate, and leader. Sharon Rhyne is many things to many people, but most of all, she is ambitious and true to herself.

The older of two sisters, and a native of Indiana, Griffith is Sharon's home. Majoring in biochemistry, Sharon chose Saint Joseph's College for several reasons.

"It [Saint Joseph's] was close to home, it had what I was looking for; I received an athletic scholarship; and it gave me the opportunity to play softball," she stated.

Being a senior, Sharon has majored in biochemistry for the past four years and aspires to further her education beyond her four year degree.

"I want to go to graduate school and I'm interested in forensic science," she commented.

In addition to her studies, you can find Sharon not only in the laboratory and the classroom, but she is readily found on the softball field. She has pitched for the Lady Puma's Softball team for four years, and currently she is the

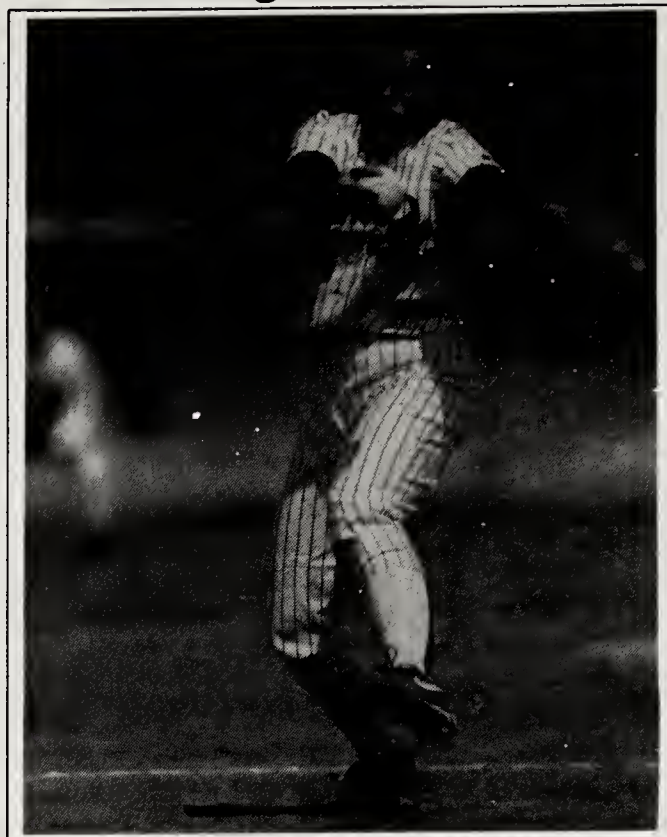


Photo provided by Sharon Rhyne

Sharon gives it her all pitching for the Pumas.

team's captain along with fellow senior Kristin Brown.

"I don't think of us as captains," Sharon stated. "I lead more by example...the pitcher is key and their attitude reflects on the team," she added.

Having played on the team for four years, she has seen some pretty grim

times, but within the past couple of years the team has developed its technique and has achieved winning records.

"We started off not so great, but we've had great improvement," Sharon stated. "Coaches, umpires and other teams have commend on the improvement we've shown," she added.

As a leader on the team, Sharon sees a lot of potential

in the younger players.

"The freshmen and sophomores we have are really great...and a lot of [them] are starting players," she commented.

Her enthusiasm for this sport stems back into her childhood to the age of eight.

"I was eight years old when my dad came home and without telling me he was going to do it first, he told me he signed me up to play little league. I didn't want to play at all and I was so upset. But I went to my first practice and loved it!" Sharon said with enthusiasm.

Sharon doesn't regret sticking with the game one bit.

"I've been playing since I was eight and I've made lots of friends," she said. "I learned leadership and I learned to work with others by playing on a team, but the friendships I've made stand out," Sharon reminisced.

Though softball has been a large part of Sharon's life for the past fourteen years, Sharon is one of many seniors who will be graduating on May tenth.

"I'm really excited to graduate. I'm the first in my family and everything, but I'm

also really nervous and I don't know what to expect. It's also really sad since I'm going to miss playing softball," she commented.

Upon graduation she plans to seek out a job and possibly further her education.

"I applied to the Indiana State Police, and I'd also like to go to graduate school in the future for a Masters degree in forensic science," she stated.

Having been interested in forensic science for a few years now, she fell in love with it while working at the Lake County Coroner's Office.

"I find the actual autopsy fascinating," she said with enthusiasm. "You never know what you're going to get each day. One day it could be a natural death, the next it could be a murder or a body that was discovered. I love the mystery," Sharon excitedly explained.

Though she has grown up a lot since being eight years old, Sharon still remembers to appreciate those who have loved and supported her, and attributes most of her success to her parents.

"[I attribute most of it] to my parents, but a lot to my dad. Without him I probably would have never played ball. He made me pitch every day come rain or shine," she said. "They have both been so supportive."

Sharon's parents, Bud and Jean, have also enjoyed seeing their older daughter grow up and achieve much success.

"We have loved watching Sharon play softball since she was eight, and we're very proud of her accomplishments. Sharon is lucky to have been able to play for Saint Joseph's College and we have really enjoyed following the team and watching them compete," they stated. "I don't know what we'll do once she's done playing softball" her mother said.

The End of a Tough Road for the Pumas

by Kevin Collins

The Saint Joseph's College men's tennis team finished up their 1998 season on Wednesday, April 15 against the Saints of the University of Saint Francis. Despite their hard work and play, the Pumas had a little bit of a hard time this year as the team went 3-10 overall and 2-8 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Everyone learns from experience and experience is one of the main things that the Pumas should take away from this season. The stiff

competition that the Pumas played this year should help to make next year's team stronger, as the returning players will be coming back with the knowledge and experience that they gained from this season.

Although the team will be losing seniors, James Blinzinger, Ben Waldron, and Chad Novak as well as freshman Kevin Chudd, they are thinking of the future. Blinzinger, Waldron, and Chudd represent three players out of the Pumas

starting six.

Graduating senior and a consistent winner for the Pumas, James Blinzinger will miss the team.

"I will miss playing with the team. I have had the opportunity to play with some great guys and coach Barrientos is a trip. Thanks to everyone who supported me over the years," Blinzinger said.

Head Coach John Barrientos is being very positive and is concentrating on what the team is going to be like next year.

"The players I have returning to next season's team are going to have all the matches that they played this year under their belts and I am talking with some very good recruits, who could come in and fill the holes in our lineup very well," Barrientos remarked.

If Coach Barrientos is able to bring in some talent and the returning players continue to improve their games, then the Pumas will be more trouble next year and will probably surprise some people.

How the race was won...

The drivers all started with hope in their hearts.
They had all worked so hard to prepare their go-carts.
All wanted to win and claim the first prize.
The desire was evident in all drivers' eyes.

Down the flag came and away the cars sped.
Well, except for the one who's engine was dead.
Two other cars did fine at the start,
But rounding a turn they both fell apart.

With seven cars left the whole crowd was cheering,
Till a car met a tree due to very poor steering.
The driver was fine, not hurt a bit.
He was picked up and carried on back to his pit.

The other six cars continued to race.
The tension was high as they picked up the pace.
All of the sudden, one car got a flat.
Two other cars hit him, and went out after that.

The three remaining cars picked up the speed.
They kept passing each other, all trying to lead.
With one lap to go one car ran out of gas.
It had to just sit and watch the other two pass.

They ran neck to neck, the finish line was in sight.
Both drivers were praying with all of their might.
Then one car hit a wet spot and flew off the track.
The other sped past; the driver not looking back.

She won the race and climbed out of the cart.
She had a smile on her face and pride in her heart.
The crowd swarmed around with congratulations.
The winner was announced via radio stations.

The celebration continued well into the night,
or into the morning, whichever is right.
It wasn't until the last couple dropped
that the party was over. completed. stopped.

Sarah Martin

Finish line's a start

Skidding around the last corner
...it seems like just yesterday

sliding onto the straightaway
...that I learned to enjoy it

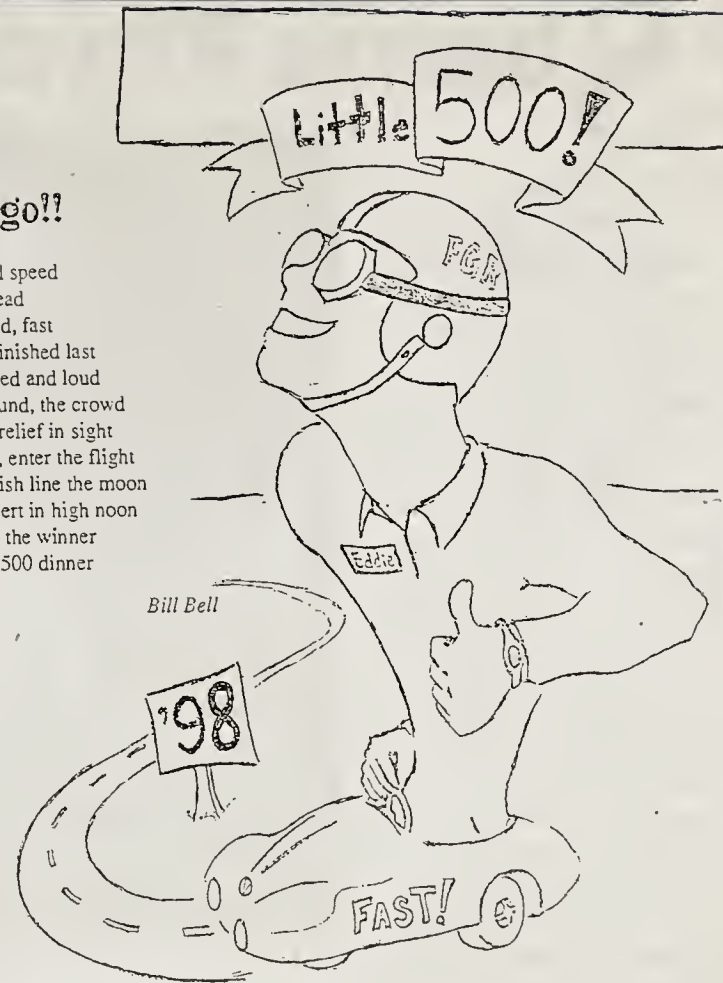
gritting my teeth, squeezing tight
racing forward with all my might
...but I never knew when to settle in

All my energy, focused now, I'm trying.
when will I know...
win?

Bob Dusek

Go cart, go!!

The day smells of glory, oil and speed
The pedal to the metal, in the lead
Dangerous intersections ignored, fast
A tragic crash, black flagged, finished last
The air is a 7-47, turbines charged and loud
In two seconds, I gather the sound, the crowd
The pit stops, for a moment, a relief in sight
Gears primed, screeching tires, enter the flight
Take off becomes blast off, finish line the moon
The heat intense, my suit a desert in high noon
Racing for a chance to emerge the winner
My feast, a seven course little 500 dinner

**The green flag.**

Unbound and flying high,
Speeding towards the circling sky.
Going the distance takes courage and
heart,
Life always leads a twisty road;
I yearn for a new start.

A dream not yet won.

The dusty roads I will walk,
The mighty battles I have fought.
This race is not won,
For much time remains.

A dream not yet won.

A cruel twist of fate,
driving into the night
and me without headlights to see.

A dream not yet won.

I tried to push ahead of the rest,
Only to sputter and fade.
I'll never be one of the best...

A flag unfurling in the distance,
casts a glimmer of hope.

A dream not yet won,
but only begun...

Charles Martin

Fable

The mountain and the squirrel
Had a quarrel;
And the former called the latter
"Little Prig."
Bun replied,
"You are doubtless very big;
But all sorts of things and
weather
Must be taken in together
To make up a year
And a sphere.
And I think it's no disgrace
To occupy my place.
You are not so small as I,
And not half so spry.
I'll not deny you make
A pretty squirrel track;
Talents differ: all is well and
wisely put;
If I cannot carry forests on my
back,
Neither can you crack a nut."

Ralph Waldo Emerson